



## Reflections & Prayers for Remembrance Sunday

8 November 2020



They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them.

*Laurence Binyon*



Today is Remembrance Sunday. As we remember those who gave their lives for others, let us commit ourselves to work in penitence and faith for reconciliation between the nations, that all people may, together, live in freedom, justice and peace.

## Contents

Readings for this Sunday	p. 3
Reflection	p. 3-5
Prayers	p. 5-7
Parish Prayers	p. 7-8

## Readings for this Sunday

These are the readings for this Sunday which you may like to look up in your bibles at home and read.

Wisdom 6.12-16

1 Thessalonians 4.13-18

**John 15.9-17**

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. 'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

## Reflection from David Nye

When my mother was suffering from dementia and in a care home, I sometimes took an old album of family photographs to help her try to recall something of her past by re-awakening those memories that had almost, but not quite, been forgotten. Just occasionally, I would cringe inwardly when the picture reminded me of some particularly embarrassing event.

I need to remember and never forget the past because no matter how embarrassing some of those memories might be, it is part of my history, part of my family history and part of my identity. And all of you will, I am sure have good and not so good memories as well.

So it is for nations. On this Remembrance Sunday as we gather with our poppies, we look back at some of the most challenging times in our history. We remember two world wars and other conflicts since then, and give especial thanks for all of those who gave their lives so that we could live in peace. Willingly or not, they made the ultimate sacrifice and we do well to continue to give thanks and to honour them.

Today we also give thanks for our armed forces who are too often in action and are too often in danger. They continue to take risks so that others may be free.

As Christians, what is it that we see when we look back? Do we see people loving each other as Jesus loved his disciples? That's exactly what we do see in so many selfless acts of bravery and sacrifice; people laying down their lives for others through countless tales told but most untold. But we also see people turning away from the brave and the good and the selfless and choosing instead to hurt others. We have all heard countless stories of the unspeakable evil that mankind can inflict on others. Concentration camps with their gas chambers are as much of our history as are stories of the valiant and the peace maker. Tragically, too many evil deeds continue to be inflicted on huge numbers of innocent people today.

Our gospel reading today included that great commandment of Jesus that we should love one another, that just as he laid down his own life for us, so there is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends. As followers of Jesus today, we share that same privilege of being called to be his friends: just think about that for a minute – we are called to be friends of Jesus, the Son of Almighty God. But the friendship that Jesus asks is costly; it means loving and caring and being concerned for each other, particular in these dark and difficult days, with our whole being and without limit. Not just when we think about it, but all through the day, every day. As Jesus loves and cares for us, so we are to treat those around us in exactly the same way. There's nothing sentimental about that – but we have to admit that on the whole, we're not terribly good at it.

We look back at the events of history and remember what has gone before. We give thanks and so we should. We recoil at the bad things that have happened. But it isn't enough for Christians to stop there. We have to look

forward to the future and we have to look deep within our own hearts and souls and examine the extent to which we love God, how much we want to do what he wants and how we reflect that in what we do every day. If we really believe that God sent his only son into the world to save us, if we really believe that God's plan for his people will not be confounded, then we will know that there is hope for the future.

Today we continue to remember the fallen, to give thanks for those who gave everything, and to lament the shortcomings of the world and of ourselves but remembering that there is absolutely no despair in Christian living. We look through the lens of love, the love of a saviour who gave himself for us, the love that even now does bear fruit in a world of challenges. We look forward to a time of peace and love knowing that God is with us on our journey and will strengthen and support us in all that we do.

### Prayers

On this Remembrance Sunday, let us pray for the peace of the world: for leaders and rulers, that they may have wisdom to know and courage to do what is right ...

for your Church, that she may be an instrument of peace, teaching by word and example the way of reconciliation ...

for all who work to improve international relationships, for peacemakers and peacekeepers especially the United Nations, that they may find the true way to reconcile people of different race, colour and creed ...

and for men, women and children the world over, that they may have justice and freedom and live in security, ...

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

Let us pray for all who suffer as a result of war:

for the injured and disabled, for the mentally distressed,

and for those whose faith in God and in each other has been weakened or destroyed ...

for the homeless and refugees, for those who are hungry,  
and for all who have lost their livelihood and security ...

for those who mourn their dead, those who have lost husband or wife or partner, children or parents and other loved ones, and especially for those who have no hope in Christ to sustain them in their grief

for all members of the armed forces who are in danger this day,  
remembering their families and friends and all who pray for their safe return

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

O God of truth and justice, we hold before you those whose memory we cherish,

and those whose names we will never know.

Help us to lift our eyes above the torment of this broken world,  
and grant us the grace to pray for those who wish us harm.

As we honour the past, may we put our faith in your future;  
for you are the source of life and hope, now and for ever.

Amen.

Let us commit ourselves to responsible living and faithful service.

Will you strive for all that makes for peace?      **We will**

Will you seek to heal the wounds of war?      **We will**

Will you work for a just future for all humanity?      **We will**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.

### Parish Prayers for the week ahead

#### **In the Anglican cycle of prayer:**

Sunday	The Church in the Province of the West Indies
Monday	The Free State (Southern Africa)
Tuesday	Rumonge (Burundi); Diocese on the Coast (Nigeria); Kwoi (Nigeria)
Wednesday	Rupert's Land (Canada); Dogura (Papua New Guinea)
Thursday	Rutana (Burundi); Doko (Nigeria); Dominican Republic (The Episcopal Church)
Friday	Ruwenzori (Uganda); Dornakal (South India)
Saturday	Sabah (South East Asia); Down & Dromore (Ireland)

#### **In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:**

Sunday	Parish of St Albans, St Mary Marshalswick (Deanery of St Albans)
Monday	Parish of St Albans, St Michael (Deanery of St Albans)
Tuesday	Parish of St Albans, St Paul (Deanery of St Albans)
Wednesday	Parish of St Albans, St Peter (Deanery of St Albans)
Thursday	Parish of St Albans, St Saviour (Deanery of St Albans)
Friday	Parish of St Albans, St Stephen (Deanery of St Albans)
Saturday	Parish of Graveley with Chivesfield (Deanery of Stevenage)

#### **For the homes and families in:**

Sunday	Broadstone Road, Burnsall Place
Monday	Burywick, Camberley Place
Tuesday	Chaucer Close, The Chowns
Wednesday	Churchfield, Coleswood Road

Thursday	Collens Road, Cosne Mews
Friday	Crabtree Lane, Cranbourne Drive
Saturday	Cravells Road, Croftwell

**The Sick:**

Berkeley, Emily, Amy Smart, Claire, Jo, Sue, Christine Strohm, Hermione, Karen, Sue Holt, Enid Giles, Jo Young and all whose names are entered on our St Luke's Cell Prayer List.

**For the recently deceased:**

Shambu Mitra

**On their year's mind:**

Irene Fisher, Mary Coot, Gordon Wood, Dorothy Prime, Bob Gordon, Gladys Mansfield, Graham Archer, Leslie Vaughan, Peter Game, Hilary Kaye, Ralph Russell, Dorothy Marriner, Donald Turnbull

**A Month of Prayer for the Nation:**

We are being encouraged to pray daily for a specific area of national concern during this month of lockdown wherever we are, culminating in a collective moment of prayer at 6pm each evening with cathedrals and churches across the country to ring a bell at this time. Christians are encouraged to follow a simple seven-day prayer cycle for a specific area each day. These can be found at [churchofengland.org/PrayerForTheNation](http://churchofengland.org/PrayerForTheNation). If you can't go online, then I suggest that just before 6pm each evening you light a candle – a reminder that Jesus is the Light of the World – and pause bringing to God in prayer whatever you think our Nation needs most on that day. There is something special about knowing that we, Christians, are all together in praying for our Nation at the same time every day. Please make every effort to join in.



[A reminder... of this phone service:](#)

**Daily Hope** – dial 0800 804 8044 for prayer, reflection, music and worship services from the Church of England. A weekly service is available from 9 am every Sunday.

### **Church at home**

We are delighted to produce each week these printed papers. If you would prefer not to receive these papers each week, please let Julie in the parish office know. If you are aware of others in the parish who would also value the opportunity to worship at home in this way, do please contact a member of the Ministry team or Julie.

**Parish Office** Julie is on holiday next week so the parish office will be closed from 9-13 November. Urgent matters should be referred to a Churchwarden or a member of the Ministry team.